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ABSTRACT

One of six related documents intended for the Air Force officer, the enlisted man, or the civilian, this reading guide contains an annotated list of 26 publications that support Project Warrior and provide information about military history and the Air Force heritage. The books are listed in sequence according to a reading ease index, which considers the writing style, language, and content and rates each book as easy, average, or difficult. (EL)

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AIR UNIVERSITY SUGGESTED PROFESSIONAL READING GUIDE



1984

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I strongly recommend to you the 1984 *Air University Suggested Professional Reading Guide*. It contains a list of publications that are important to you as an Air Force professional officer, enlisted, or civilian. The topics support PROJECT WARRIOR and will help each of us to know more about our military history and our Air Force heritage. These books are available in your base library, or they can get them for you. You can, of course, buy them from a commercial service.

To help you use the Guide, the Air University staff had developed a reading ease index and listed the books in a recommended reading sequence. The reading ease index considers the writing style, language, and content, and rates each book as easy, average, or difficult. The reading sequence starts with three books rated as easy. The first book provides a set of military principles, the second an analysis of human conduct in war, and the third addresses military leadership. The next few books provide a chronological review of warfare up to Vietnam. Following that, you'll examine our strongest potential adversary, the USSR. You'll finish the list by reading some of the more difficult books that touch on the theory of war and defense issues in the political arena.

The list is not all-inclusive, nor do all the views expressed in these writings have the indorsement of the Air Force or Air University. However, these readings will contribute significantly to your professional knowledge and should spur your interest in reading more books related to our profession.

I encourage you to comment on the Guide. Please send your comments to Headquarters Air University, DCS/Education, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112.

The opening verse of Sun Tzu's classic work, *The Art of War*, says "War is a grave concern of the state; it must be thoroughly studied." This reading guide will give you a good start.



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READING EASE INDEX

E = EASY
A = AVERAGE
D = DIFFICULT

1. *Air University Review*. Professional Journal of the United States Air Force. Published bimonthly by Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. A journal designed to stimulate professional thought concerning aerospace doctrine, strategy, tactics, and related matters.
2. Sun Tzu Wu. *The Art of War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971. This short military treatise written in the 6th century B.C. lays down a set of basic military principles dealing with strategy, tactics, communications, supply, etc. The basic nature of Sun Tzu's tenets give them a lasting relevance. (E)
3. Keegan, John. *The Face of Battle*. New York: The Viking Press, 1976. A highly readable, thoroughly researched analysis of human conduct in war based on compelling accounts of three battles fought within 100 miles of each other: Agincourt, 1415; Waterloo, 1815; the Somme, 1916. The author proposed that a study of what moves men to fight will provide the most useful lessons for the conduct of future wars. (E)
4. Newman, Aubrey S. *Follow Me: The Human Element in Leadership*. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1981. This book is basic to a better understanding of military life and leadership. The author, a seasoned combat veteran, draws upon a long and rich experience, flavored with humor, to illustrate practical lessons of leadership. (E)
5. Earle, E. M., Ed. *Makers of Modern Strategy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1943. Compiled by twenty experts, this book presents a history of military thought from Machiavelli to Hitler. The subject and scope of the book make it a valuable primer in military strategy. (A)
6. Howard, Michael. *War in European History*. London, Oxford, and New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. A short survey of military history in Europe. Briefly examines some of the main trends in warfare from the Middle Ages into the nuclear age. It traces the

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- major developments in society, politics, and technology that led from feudal to modern warfare. (A)
7. Ropp, Theodore. *War in the Modern World*. New York: Collier Books, 1962. A history of warfare in Western Civilization from 1415 to the present. This book provides analyses of the social, political, and military aspects of warfare. (E)
 8. Weigley, Russell F. *The American Way of War*. Bloomington, IN: IU Press, 1977. This is probably the most readable military history of the U.S. The Weigley thesis divides our strategic thought into two categories. The first, annihilation as practiced by Grant and Eisenhower in the broad-front, wear down of the enemy, is cited as "the American way." The second American strategy is that of attrition, as practiced by George Washington, Winfield Scott, and Geronimo. This second strategy is not "the American way" in Weigley's view but deserves more attention than it gets. (A)
 9. Mahan, Alfred Thayer. *The Influence of Seapower Upon History, 1660-1763*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1957. Mahan provided the first major thesis on the seapower doctrine. He examines how the 17th century English gain command of the sea and thus propel themselves into world power status. From these lessons Mahan establishes the fundamental principles for the development of a powerful twentieth century U.S. navy. (A)
 10. Copp, DeWitt S. *A Few Great Captains*. New York: Doubleday, 1980. Written under the auspices of the Air Force Historical Foundation, this is a history of pre-WW II U.S. airpower that catches the drama and excitement of that early era. (A)
 11. Copp, DeWitt S. *Forged in Fire*. New York: Doubleday, 1982. This sequel to *A Few Great Captains* covers WW II. It looks at the men who developed American airpower, surveys strategic bombing in Europe, and relates the quest for an independent Air Force. (A)
 12. Liddell Hart, B. H. *History of the Second World War*. New York: G. P. Putnam's sons, 1972. Sir Basil Liddell Hart was one of the greatest military thinkers of the twentieth century, and his ideas, particularly on the role of mechanized warfare, revolutionized the art of war. (A)
 13. van Creveld, Martin L. *Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979. Examines the practical art of moving armies and keeping them supplied. The author initially surveys the logistical practices of the 17th and 18th centuries and then closely examines six major campaigns from Napoleon against Russia to that of the Allies in Normandy. (E)
 14. Hastings, Max. *Bomber Command: The Myths and Reality of the Strategic Bombing Offensive, 1939-45*. New York: The Dial Press, 1979. An account of the price paid by the British to sustain the bomber offensive and a reexamination of what the bomber could and could not accomplish in six years of total war. The book also covers the struggle between the British and Americans over day versus night bombing. (A)
 15. Futrell, Robert F. *The United States Air Force in Korea: 1950-1953*. Washington: Office of Air Force History, 1983. This is the reissue of Futrell's classic, first published in 1961. It is a fine example of official history and provides a comprehensive analysis of airpower in Korea. (A)
 16. Brodie, Bernard and Brodie, Fawn. *From Crossbow to H-Bomb*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1973. An historical survey of the role of science and technology in war. The Brodies present information on the major weapons that have affected war since ancient times. The book provides insight into the relationship among technology, tactics, and strategy. (A)
 17. Summers, Harry G., Jr. *On Strategy: The Vietnam War in Context*. Novato, CA: Presidio Press, 1982. A look at strategy in Vietnam. Why did we win all the battles yet lose the war? He explores Clausewitz' Balanced Trinity of War—The People, the Government, and the Army. Special emphasis is placed on the Role of Public Support in Strategic Planning and the Role of the Military in Strategic Thought. (A)

18. LaQueur, Walter. *Guerrilla*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1976. A critical interpretation of guerrilla and terrorist theory and practice throughout history. It does not aim at presenting a universal theory but uses a comparative approach to find common patterns. (D)
19. Osgood, Robert E. *Limited War Revisited*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1979. The author examines the development of limited war strategy since the end of WW II. In particular, he focuses on the impact of that strategy on the Vietnam conflict and a limited war scenario in Central Europe. He also offers a comprehensive discussion on the types of conflict most likely to occur in the future. (A)
20. Baker, David. *The Shape of Wars to Come*. New York: Stein and Day, 1982. The author is a technical information consultant to NASA and has been deeply involved in future mission planning. He describes the work presently going on in anti-satellite techniques, discusses the possibilities of lasers and charged-particle-beam weapons, and speculates on the ultimate threats from space. (A)
21. Whiting, Kenneth R. *The Development of the Soviet Armed Forces, 1917-1977*. Maxwell AFB, AL: Air University Printing Plant, 1977. After providing an introduction to Russian military heritage from Medieval Russia through World War I, Dr. Whiting traces the development of the Soviet armed forces from a "ragged group of Red Guards" in 1917 to one of the mightiest armed forces in history. The book concludes with chapters which detail the organization and deployment of Soviet forces and provide a projection of Soviet military power. (A)
22. Suvorov, Viktor. *Inside the Soviet Army*. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1982. Suvorov, a high-ranking Russian officer, who defected to the West, takes an in-depth look at the Soviet Army's philosophy, armament, and tactics. Suvorov is able to dispel many myths about the Soviet military pertaining to its efficiency as a combat force. (A)
23. Douglass, Joseph D., Jr., and Hoeber, Amoretta M. *Soviet Strategy for Nuclear War*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 1979. This book is based on Soviet military literature available in the West. It reveals how the Soviet Union is using and planning to use its growing military power, both conventional and strategic, as an instrument of imperial expansion. (A)
24. Preston, Richard and Wise, Sydney. *Men in Arms*, 4th Ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979. Relates the history of warfare to the history of Western society by providing a background of political, economic, and social history in relation to military events. Provides a comprehensive and schematic look at warfare as a social institution shaped by, and in turn shaping, man's moral, political, and economic course. (A)
25. Clausewitz, Karl Von. *On War*. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976. The military classic on the art of waging war and the foundation of modern strategic science in warfare. (D)
26. Brodie, Bernard. *War and Politics*. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1973. Brodie addresses an idea put forth by Clausewitz that the question of why we fight must dominate any consideration of means. Brodie first provides a general history of WW I, WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. He then discusses changing attitudes toward war and provides some theories on the causes of war. (D)